

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 29, 37, 39, and 41-48;

Please ADD claims 50-60, as shown below; and

Please CANCEL claims 31-36, without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A ~~service provisioning~~ method, comprising:

receiving, at a first entity associated with a communication system from a storage entity, information comprising an address of or a name of a communication control entity configured to service a user of the communication system;

generating, by the first entity, an initial request on behalf of the user; and

based on said information, signaling the initial request from the first entity to the communication control entity,

wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial request includes an indication that further communications associated with the initial request shall be handled in a similar manner as though the request had originated from the user.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein either terminating services or originating services are provided based on the request.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
deciding, in the first entity, how the communication control entity shall handle further communications associated with the request.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial request is generated based on information regarding the address of the communication control entity.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, further comprising:
modifying, by the first entity, said information regarding the address of the communication control entity before sending the initial request.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
adding, by the first entity, a service type indicator into the initial request.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the service type indicator is included in the address of the communication control entity.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the service type indicator is included in a user part of the address.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the service type indicator is included in a domain part of the address.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
selecting, by the first entity, a port where the request shall be sent.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the storage entity comprises a universal resource identifier of the communication control entity.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the storage entity comprises a name of the communication control entity.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the information received from the storage entity comprises a service type indicator parameter.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending an enquiry to a database from the first entity before sending the initial request, said enquiry being based on the information regarding the communication control entity.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
enquiring, by the first entity, for service records of a domain name system for obtaining routing information regarding a desired service.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
enquiring, by the first entity, for naming authority pointer resource records to find available services.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
sending an enquiry from the first entity for said information regarding the communication control entity configured to service the user.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein information regarding at least two different addresses for the communication control entity information is stored in the storage entity.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
fetching said at least two different addresses from the storage entity by the first entity before sending said request.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
fetching one of said at least two different addresses from the storage entity by the first entity before sending said request.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the initial request is indicative of filter criteria to be applied to the request.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first entity comprises an application server.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the communication control entity comprises a serving call session control function.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the storage entity comprises a user information storage entity.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein the user information storage entity is one of a home subscriber server, a subscriber location function, or a service and subscription repository.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication system~~, comprising:
a communication control entity configured to service a user of a communication system; and

a first entity provided with a first interface configured to receive information from a storage entity comprising an address of or a name of the communication control entity and a second interface configured to signal an initial request to the communication control entity based on said information from the storage entity,

wherein the first entity is configured to generate the initial request on behalf of the user, and

wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

30-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Currently Amended) ~~An application server~~An apparatus, comprising:
a first interface configured to receive information from a storage entity regarding a user of the communication system; and

a second interface configured to signal an initial request to a communication control entity configured to service the user based on said information from the storage entity, the information comprising an address of or a name of the communication control entity,

wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

38. (Previously Presented) An initial request to be signaled on an interface between a first entity of a communication system and a communication control entity configured to service a user of the communication system, the initial request being generated based on information from a user information storage entity, wherein the information comprises an address of or a name of the communication control entity, wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~A network entity~~An apparatus, comprising:
receiving means for receiving at a first entity associated with the communication system from a storage entity, information comprising a name of or an address of a communication control entity configured to service a user of the communication system;
and

signaling means for signaling an initial request from the first entity to the communication control entity based on said information,

wherein the ~~network entity~~ apparatus is configured to generate the initial request on behalf of the user, and

wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~network entity~~ apparatus of claim 3946, wherein the information received from the storage entity comprises a service type indicator parameter.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~network entity~~ apparatus of claim 3946, further comprising:

sending means for sending an enquiry to a database from the first entity, wherein the sending means is configured to send the enquiry before the initial request is sent, and said enquiry is based on the information regarding the communication control entity.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~network entity apparatus~~ of claim 42, wherein the first entity is configured to enquire for service records of a domain name system for obtaining routing information regarding a desired service.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~network entity apparatus~~ of claim 3946, wherein information regarding at least two different addresses for the communication control entity information is stored in the storage entity.

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~network entity apparatus~~ of claim 3946, wherein the initial request is indicative of filter criteria to be applied to the request.

46. (Currently Amended) ~~A network entity~~An apparatus, comprising:
a first interface configured to receive information from a storage entity comprising an address of or a name of a communication control entity configured to service the user based on said information from the storage entity; and
a second interface configured to signal an initial request to the communication control entity,
wherein the ~~network entity apparatus~~ is configured to generate the initial request on behalf of the user, and
wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

47. (Currently Amended) The ~~network entity apparatus~~ of claim 46, wherein the ~~network entity apparatus~~ comprises at least one of a gateway, a server, a proxy, a client, or a user agent.

48. (Currently Amended) ~~A storage entity~~ An apparatus, comprising:
two stored addresses of a communication control entity;
an address for an originating role; and
an address for a terminating role,
wherein the ~~storage entity apparatus comprises a transmitter~~ is configured to send one or both of the two stored addresses to an application server on request for use in generating an initial request on behalf of a user, and
wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

49. (Cancelled)

50. (New) A computer-readable storage medium, encoded with instructions that, when executed by a computer, perform:

receiving, from a storage entity, information comprising an address of or a name of a communication control entity configured to service a user of a communication system;

generating an initial request on behalf of the user; and
based on said information, signaling the initial request to the communication control entity,

wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

51. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

deciding how the communication control entity shall handle further communications associated with the request.

52. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

modifying information regarding the address of the communication control entity before sending the initial request.

53. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

adding, by the first entity, a service type indicator into the initial request.

54. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

selecting, by the first entity, a port where the request shall be sent.

55. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

sending an enquiry to a database from the first entity before sending the initial request, said enquiry being based on the information regarding the communication control entity.

56. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

enquiring, by the first entity, for service records of a domain name system for obtaining routing information regarding a desired service.

57. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

enquiring, by the first entity, for naming authority pointer resource records to find available services.

58. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

sending an enquiry from the first entity for said information regarding the communication control entity configured to service the user.

59. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

fetching at least two different addresses of the communication control entity from the storage entity by the first entity before sending said request.

60. (New) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 50, further comprising instructions to perform:

fetching one of at least two different addresses of the communication control entity from the storage entity by the first entity before sending said request.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the information regarding the handling of communications comprises a service type indicator parameter.

62. (New) The apparatus of claim 48, further comprising:

a receiver configured to receive an enquiry, wherein the enquiry is received before the initial request is sent, and said enquiry is based on the information regarding the communication control entity.

63. (New) A method, comprising:

storing two stored addresses of a communication control entity, wherein one of said two addresses comprises an address for an originating role and wherein one of said two addresses comprises an address for a terminating role;

sending one or both of the two stored addresses to an application server on request for use in generating an initial request on behalf of a user, wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein the information regarding the handling of communications comprises a service type indicator parameter.

65. (New) The method of claim 63, further comprising:

receiving an enquiry, wherein the enquiry is received before the initial request is sent, and said enquiry is based on the information regarding the communication control entity.

66. (New) A computer-readable medium encoded with instructions that, when executed on a computer, perform a process, the process comprising:

storing two stored addresses of a communication control entity, wherein one of said two addresses comprises an address for an originating role and wherein one of said two addresses comprises an address for a terminating role;

sending one or both of the two stored addresses to an application server on request for use in generating an initial request on behalf of a user, wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.

67. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 66, wherein the information regarding the handling of communications comprises a service type indicator parameter.

68. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 66, wherein the process further comprises:

receiving an enquiry, wherein the enquiry is received before the initial request is sent, and said enquiry is based on the information regarding the communication control entity.

69. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

storage means for storing two stored addresses of a communication control entity, wherein one of said two addresses comprises an address for an originating role and wherein one of said two addresses comprises an address for a terminating role;

transmission means for sending one or both of the two stored addresses to an application server on request for use in generating an initial request on behalf of a user, wherein the initial request includes information regarding the handling of communications associated with the request, the information in the initial request indicating whether to originate or terminate a service.